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MINNESOTA AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE IN COOPERATION WITH THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
TWIN CITIES INT'L AIRPORT, UNIV. OF MINN. EXTENSION SERVICE, AND STATE CLIMATOLOGY, DNR

The following comments are from Minnesota's County Extension Educators
and FSA (USDA - Farm Service Agency) Offices

- BENTON:** Its been a normal winter. Things are fine except for the discouraging farm prices. Some hilltops where alfalfa was cut late have been bare for part of the winter. This is not a major factor for the 2001 hay crop.
- BROWN:** There is no unharvested corn. Feed inventories are strong. Farmers purchasing feedstuffs are able to do so with few problems. The big issues are snow removal and manure hauling.
- COTTONWOOD:** Winter weather has been a challenge for livestock feeders. Cold weather has required extra feed and bedding. Feed supplies are adequate. Farmers are looking forward to spring work in the fields.
- DODGE:** There is lots of interest at the local training sessions of the new state feedlot rules. Quite a few of those attending are families with recently closed feedlots.
- FARIBAULT:** Continued cold has taken its toll on equipment this winter for livestock producers. The snow on the ground should supply grain farmers with ample planting moisture, but may lack a significant amount due to its light nature.
- KANDIYOHI:** Last week 10" of snow was received and the temperatures were cold. Livestock and feed supplies are doing well. Some area lakes have started to freeze out. There is little or no ice to damage plants and trees at this point.
- LAC QUI PARLE:** There is lots of snow. Livestock producers have a lot of work everyday clearing snow and feeding livestock. There are some reports of possible hay stock shortages. Hay seems to be available, but high priced.
- LAKE OF THE WOODS:** There are reports of unharvested corn. Some of the corn crop was abandoned due to wet conditions last fall. There are intentions to harvest corn yet this spring. The farmer-elected FSA county committee representing Koochiching and Lake of the Woods counties reported excellent livestock conditions and feed availability throughout the 2-county area. Other than December, the winter has been very good.
- LE SUEUR:** The winter weather has made livestock management on outside lots more time consuming. Gains and performance of outside meat producing animals has not suffered dramatically. Dairy production has been good, but dips during periods of extended cold weather is present.
- LINCOLN:** There is very little unharvested corn. The unharvested corn is primarily just on DNR land leased to individuals who can harvest the corn that hasn't been eaten by wildlife. Any unharvested corn will have some loss due to large snow drifts on edges and wildlife feeding. Livestock are in good condition and feed availability is adequate at the present time. It has been cold and windy. Snowy conditions are slowing weight gain a little.
- MEEKER:** The biggest concern is about the availability of nitrogen fertilizer this spring. With prices skyrocketing past \$400 per ton, there may be a shift to more soybean acres. It is still too early to tell what crops will be planted. Many producers applied fertilizer last fall. Those who didn't, locked in a price by prepaying what they could afford. There is not a lot of extra money in farmers pockets. If it wasn't for the subsidies from USDA, the entire farm economy would be in a very sad state. There is still lots of controversy over the Starlink corn issue. Most producers have been working with their seed company to find a home for the contaminated corn. It is being hauled to either a corn ethanol plant or to an elevator who sells it for animal consumption only. With the low corn prices, farmers are reluctant to sell genetically modified corn, even with the incentive and hauling charges paid by companies. Some of the Starlink corn may remain in producers bins for a long time. Crop prices are still very, very depressed. Since the recent drop in prices, grain movement has almost stopped except for local feed demand.
- MOWER:** Some of Mower County's corn has not been harvested. Snow in the fields is above 30 inches. This makes it hard to haul manure.
- NORMAN:** There is good snow cover this winter. Some unharvested corn is still standing. Livestock feeds are in good supply. Many farmers are concerned about higher fuel and fertilizer costs this spring.
- OTTER TAIL:** Most of the unharvested acreage going into early winter was combined prior to significant snowfall with the exception of some soybean fields. Cattle health is good with adequate feed and forage supplies. Some concern with the amount of snowfall. Soils were supersaturated going into winter which causes concern of significant runoff and surface erosion this spring.
- ROCK:** This has been a tough winter so far as ice and snow are concerned. Area producers are busy attending meetings and planning for the upcoming planting season. While hay prices have decreased from highs of a month ago, the price of straw still remains at or near record levels.
- TRAVERSE:** February has brought substantial snowfall to Traverse County and counties to the south. This brings concern of spring flooding and delays in getting into the field in a timely fashion. The price and availability of nitrogen is a concern. Feed supplies seem to be adequate.

PRECIPITATION AND TEMPERATURE SUMMARY FOR JANUARY 2001
Temperatures during January averaged from 6.2 degrees above normal in the Southwest District to 12.6 degrees above normal in the North Central District. Temperature extremes included a low of -26 degrees at Staples and a high of 46 degrees at Canby and Waseca. Average precipitation ranged from 0.45 inch below normal in the North Central District to 0.61 inch above normal in the Southwest District. Greatest monthly precipitation of 1.79 inches was recorded in Browns Valley.

Precipitation and Temperature Summary for January 2001

	Temperature			Precipitation	
	High	Low	Month Ave	Month Total	Dept. for Month
<u>NW DIST 1</u>					
Crookston	40	-24	12.5	10.8	.15 -.36
Moorhead	41	-23	14.2	8.3	.19 -.48
Warroad	37	-17	12.8	13.9	.16 -.45
<u>NC DIST 2</u>					
Grand Rapids	41	-17	17.2	12.4	.85 -.06
Intl. Falls	36	-21	14.1	13.1	.18 -.70
Itasca	41	-22	14.8	12.4	.33 -.59
<u>NE DIST 3</u>					
Duluth	38	-17	17.4	10.4	1.25 .03
Grand Marais	39	-6	20.5	7.4	.32 -.58
Hibbing	36	-18	15.0	10.9	.45 -.26
<u>WC DIST 4</u>					
Alexandria	41	-17	15.1	7.9	.55 -.39
Browns Valley	44	-21	17.3	9.4	1.79 1.10
Canby	46	-17	19.6	8.3	1.70 1.00
Fergus Falls	40	-21	14.8	9.3	.72 -.01
Montevideo	42	-18	16.2	6.3	.71 -.27
Morris	42	-19	14.6	7.5	1.17 .43
<u>CENT DIST 5</u>					
Becker	12m	4m	8.0m	-.1m	1.36 .56
Hutchinson	41	-11	18.8	9.2	.67 .03
Olivia	40	-14	15.8	6.2	1.29 .54
St. Cloud	42	-17	16.1	8.0	.76 .02
Staples	42	-26	13.8	8.2	.09 -.74
Willmar	41	-16	15.2	6.5	1.02 .23
<u>EC DIST 6</u>					
Aitkin	41	-17	17.1	11.2	1.21 .40
Cambridge	39	-13	18.0	8.9	1.39 .61
MSP Airport	39	-7	20.0	8.2	1.21 .26
St. Paul - UofM	40	-4	21.6	6.8	1.33 .42
<u>SW DIST 7</u>					
Lamberton	42	-9	18.6	7.3	1.21 .59
Pipestone	41	-18	16.1	6.1	.98 .52
Redwood Falls	41	-14	18.4	6.1	.69 .05
Worthington	39	-8	18.1	6.5	1.53 .96
<u>SC DIST 8</u>					
Faribault	41	-8	17.7	7.4	1.47 .53
Waseca	46	-12	17.0	7.1	1.27 .29
Winnebago	39	-12	17.2	6.0	1.54 .68
<u>SE DIST 9</u>					
Preston	41	-15	18.0	6.2	1.19 .30
Red Wing	40	-10	17.8	8.5	1.12 .13
Rochester	38	-12	17.4	5.9	.78 -.00
Rosemount	38	-12	17.2	8.3	1.26 .20
Winona	42	-6	20.3	7.0	1.06 .28

m=some data missing

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